

Claims

- 1 1. An apparatus to teach a subject to vocally emulate sounds comprising:
 - 2 a sensor for detecting the presence of a subject;
 - 3 a system for playing back a predetermined message, where the system initiates playback
 - 4 of said predetermined message upon the detection of the presence of the person or animal by
 - 5 the sensor; and
 - 6 a housing which contains the sensor and the playback initiation system.
2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a system for selecting a prerecorded sound to be played.
3. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a system for recording sounds that are audible to human beings.
4. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a system for recording sounds that are audible to animals.
5. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein, the sensor comprises:
 - a movement sensing device.
6. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein, the sensor comprises:
 - a light sensing device for detecting the absence of light due to the presence of the bird.

7. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein, the sensor comprises:
a laser and a laser detection sensor.
8. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein, the sensor for detecting the presence of a bird comprises:
a heat sensing device.
9. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a bird perch.
10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the bird perch is detachable.
11. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a mirror.
12. An apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the mirror is contained within the housing.
13. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a means for attaching the apparatus to a birdcage.
14. An apparatus as recited in claim 13 wherein, the means for attaching the apparatus to a birdcage comprises a bracket.
15. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein, the apparatus is capable of freely standing.

16. An apparatus as recited in claim 9 further comprising a trough.

17. An apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein the trough is inserted within the space created by the bird perch.

1 18. A method of teaching a subject to vocalize sounds comprising:

2 selecting a prerecorded sound to be played back by a playback system;

3 detecting the subject's presence by a sensor; and

4 upon the sensor's detection of the subject, the prerecorded sound is played back for the

subject to hear, whereby the subject learns to vocally emulate the desired sound.